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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 003795

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/19/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: TURKS EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR COOPERATION  
AFFORDED TO TU LIAISON TEAMS IN MOSUL, TEL AFAR; CONCERNS  
ABOUT LNOs IN KIRKUK

(U) Baghdad minimize considered.

(U) Classified by Ambassador W. Robert Pearson. Reasons:  
1.5 (B and D).

(C) MFA U/S Ziyal and Ambassador briefly discussed the functioning of the Turkish liaison officers in Iraq over lunch June 10. Ziyal opened by saying that Turkish LNOs were a source of confidence for Turkey. They relay information, keep GOT officials informed about the real situation on the ground and help alleviate speculation and unnecessary worries. Ziyal stressed the GOT was appreciative of the cooperation extended to the TU LNOs by the US forces, in particular those under the command of 101st Commanding General MG Petraeus. Ziyal noted, however, that TGS had reported that the TU LNO teams in Kirkuk were experiencing some problems. Specifically, Ziyal said the TU LNOs reportedly had been denied permission to leave their base, asked to change offices without justification, denied an internet connection and restricted from entering certain areas of the base. Ziyal expressed hope the situation involving the TU LNOs in Kirkuk would improve in the future.  
PEARSON